

STATINTL

[Swedish Authorities Warn Mrs. Wennerstrom]

Spy's Wife Is Under Suspicion

By Wilfrid Fleisher
Special to The Washington Post

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 24—The wife of Col. Stig Wennerstrom, former Swedish air attache in Washington who is serving a life term in prison as a spy for the Russians, was formally notified during police interrogation that she was suspected of complicity in her husband's espionage.

This was revealed in a final 1000-page report on Wennerstrom's activities released by the Interior Ministry here tonight.

The report discloses for the first time that Ulla Greta Wennerstrom was questioned for five hours at police headquarters here on June 20, 1963, the day of her husband's arrest. It does not state whether she also was arrested or merely summoned to police headquarters.

Mrs. Wennerstrom was questioned several times in the succeeding months and was officially informed three months later that it was found there was "good reason to suspect her complicity in the crime" for which her husband was charged and she was therefore entitled to defense counsel.



STIG WENNERSTROM MRS. WENNERSTROM
... wife mentioned as suspect in spy's activities.

The report does not reveal whether she availed herself of the right of counsel but she persistently maintained under interrogation that she had no knowledge of her husband's work and as an officer's wife never inquired about it.

No charges have been pressed against her and as far as can be learned she is

still employed by the National Lottery, a semi-government job at a salary of \$100 a month.

Also in the report is the testimony of Maj. Fredrik Schnell, who served as assistant air attache in Washington under Wennerstrom for two years who told investigators that Wennerstrom obtained

widespread over-all knowledge of the American airplane industry's production, methods and future construction plans.

Schnell's testimony contained the following points:

- Wennerstrom was eagerly received upon his arrival in Washington from Moscow by Pentagon officers who were anxious for information about the Russian air force.

- Pentagon doors swung open for Wennerstrom and when American officers were unable to answer questions outright because of secrecy requirements they provided him with specialized printed matter which indirectly answered his questions.

- Since Sweden was a very large purchaser of American defense material, Wennerstrom gained unusual access to information from American airplane manufacturers, who were lacking in American defense orders in 1954 and anxious for export.

Schnell told investigators he never suspected Wennerstrom of espionage but that the information he obtained far exceeded Swedish requirements and must have been invaluable to the Russians.